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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft

In my opinion...the message to Microsoft AND it's competitors should be that innovative ideas are needed to keep us moving towards the future and ensure the best products are available. However, designing operating systems or software applications that are not openly compatible stifles innovations and limits the consumers ability to use whatever OS and applications best meets their needs.

In spite of already losing in the courts, Microsoft continues to use every means possible to stifle any competition that could provide alternative products. "Open" competition would force ALL hardware and software manufacturers to provide products that are cross-compatible AND user friendly. Their software continues to demand more memory, faster processing, upgraded programs, etc. Technical support for older (last version) hardware and software products is non-existent. You can no longer buy any hardware or software that you can expect to use for more than 6 months to a year. What kind of resources (plastics, metals, haz-mat substances) are being wasted by making these products "disposable"? How much money must the consumers be expected to spend just to keep a system that is useable AND supported?

Microsoft's latest release (Microsoft XP) now threatens to infringe upon privacy issues. They are not threatened by the monetary fines assessed by the courts so far. They have consumers by the short hairs and will just continue their practices which will continue to make them more money than is imaginable.

Microsoft has the advantage of being able to set the "standard". Everyone else (consumers & competitors) are force-fed the Microsoft standard because there isn't anything else acceptable. The Microsoft systems continue to be unreliable. Systems crash, vital information and productivity is lost. How is this acceptable? The old DOS systems were VERY reliable and cross-compatible. Never any crashes, no lost information, etc.

Part of the blame also rests with consumers for not demanding alternative products. A lot of consumers (individuals and businesses) jumped on the Microsoft bandwagon before it's systems were time-tested. Most are unwilling at this point to make critical changes because of the expense that would be involved.

Microsoft continues to operate in a manner that is not conducive to a competitive environment and will ultimately do more harm to the consumers and the industry if left unchecked.

Now that this has been brought to the fore-front, we have the ability to

force change for the betterment of the industry and the consumer. The message to Microsoft must be strong "CEASE and DESIST the unfair practices" they continue to use. Their products should be openly compatible so the consumer can decide what they want to use. If Microsoft is truly the superior product, they will have lost nothing and gained the respect of the industry and the consumer. If they are not the superior product, the industry and the consumer wins the chance to find or create something better.

Thank you.

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